

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF
THE ART COMMISSION

OF THE CITY OF
NEW YORK

FOR THE YEARS
1917 and 1918



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NEW YORK

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Dear Martin Willes.
Your interest in the
Old State House in Hart-
ford, prompt me to lend
this pamphlet to you
to add to your collection
of State House pictures.

Sincerely
George D.S.

0462711 6084

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1917/1918

HERALD SQUARE PRESS, NEW YORK

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MEMBERS OF ART COMMISSION

1917

EX-OFFICIO.

JOHN PURROY MITCHEL.....	<i>Mayor</i>
ROBERT W. DE FOREST.....	<i>President of Metropolitan Museum of Art</i>
A. AUGUSTUS HEALY.....	<i>President of Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences</i>
I. N. PHELPS STOKES.....	<i>Trustee of New York Public Library</i>

APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR

WALTER H. CRITTENDEN.....	Term expires December 31, 1917
HERMON A. MACNEIL.....	Term expires December 31, 1917
JULES GUERIN	Term expires December 31, 1918
JAMES R. WHEELER.....	Term expires December 31, 1918
CHARLES H. SHERRILL.....	Term expires December 31, 1919
HENRY BACON	Term expires December 31, 1919

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, *Assistant Secretary*

ALICE S. CLARK, *Clerk.*

MEMBERS OF ART COMMISSION

1918

EX-OFFICIO

JOHN F. HYLAN.....	<i>Mayor</i>
ROBERT W. DE FOREST.....	<i>President of Metropolitan Museum of Art</i>
A. AUGUSTUS HEALY.....	<i>President of Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.</i>
I. N. PHELPS STOKES.....	<i>Trustee of New York Public Library</i>
MORGAN J. O'BRIEN.....	<i>Trustee of New York Public Library</i>

APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR

JAMES R. WHEELER.....	Died February 9, 1918
HENRY C. LAWRENCE.....	Term expires December 31, 1918
JULES GUERIN	Term expires December 31, 1918
CHARLES H. SHERRILL.....	Term expires December 31, 1919
HENRY BACON	Term expires December 31, 1919
EDMOND T. QUINN.....	Term expires December 31, 1920
LUKE VINCENT LOCKWOOD.....	Term expires December 31, 1920

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, *Assistant Secretary*

Alice S. Clark, *Clerk*

ART COMMISSION REPORT

FOR YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1917, AND DECEMBER
31, 1918

September 15, 1919.

HONORABLE JOHN F. HYLAN,

*Mayor of the City of New York,
City Hall, New York City.*

SIR:

In compliance with the provisions of Charter, the Art Commission begs to submit its reports for 1917 and 1918:

1917

The membership of the Commission, in accordance with provisions of Charter, consisted throughout 1917 of John Purroy Mitchel (Mayor), Robert W. de Forest (President of Metropolitan Museum of Art), A. Augustus Healy (President of Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences), I. N. Phelps Stokes (Trustee of New York Public Library), Jules Guerin (painter), Hermon A. MacNeil (sculptor), Henry Bacon (architect), Walter H. Crittenden (layman), Charles H. Sherrill (layman), and James R. Wheeler (layman).

At the first meeting, held January 8, 1917, the Commission organized by electing Robert W. de Forest, President; A. Augustus Healy, Vice-President, and Walter H. Crittenden, Secretary.

In compliance with provisions of Charter, 121 matters were submitted to the Commission during 1917. One was carried over from 1916. The approximate amount of money involved was \$16,000,000.

For each one of these 121 submissions, from 1 to 44 plans have been examined and passed upon. The designs presented with 98 submissions were approved as submitted. In 15 cases the Commission disapproved the designs in whole or in part. In place of 4 of these, amended plans were prepared, submitted and approved. In place of 7, new plans were not resubmitted before close of year. Four submissions were withdrawn. One submission remained unacted upon at close of year, owing to incompleteness of documents presented.

The membership of the Commission consisted throughout 1918 of John F. Hyland (Mayor), Robert W. de Forest (President of Metropolitan Museum of Art), A. Augustus Healy (President of Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences), Jules Guerin (painter), Edmond T. Quinn (sculptor), Henry Bacon (architect), Charles H. Sherrill (layman), Luke Vincent Lockwood (layman); also I. N. Phelps Stokes (Trustee of New York Public Library), from January 1 to February 24, when he resigned, and Morgan J. O'Brien (Trustee of New York Public Library), was appointed to succeed him; and James R. Wheeler (layman), from January 1 to February 9, the date of his death; and Henry C. Lawrence (layman), appointed February 14, to succeed Mr. Wheeler.

At the first meeting held January 14, 1918, the Commission organized by electing: Robert W. de Forest, President; A. Augustus Healy, Vice-President, and Jules Guerin, Secretary.

In compliance with provisions of Charter, 51 matters were submitted to the Commission during 1918. One was carried over from 1917. The approximate amount of money involved was \$6,500,000.

For each one of these 51 submissions, from 1 to 10 plans have been examined and passed upon. The designs presented with 43 submissions were approved as submitted. In 8 cases the Commission disapproved the designs in whole or in part. One submission remained unacted upon at close of year. This was received so short a time before December 31 that there was not sufficient opportunity to examine the plans, visit location and make report.

Each submission received is immediately referred to a special committee, which makes its report before the subject is considered by the full Commission. The committees visit locations submitted for monuments and other structures.

In addition to their meetings for examination of designs submitted, the committees frequently meet in conference with heads of departments, designers, and other persons interested in matters before the Commission. During 1917, 62, and during 1918, 41, committee meetings have been held. It is in committee work, therefore, that the most engrossing duties of the Commissioners are to be found. The Commission held 16 meetings in 1917 and 12 meetings in 1918.

A large majority of designs are approved as submitted; a small percentage are disapproved and others are dealt with in the manner which promises to secure best results. Some are given preliminary approval with suggestion to restudy certain features of the designs and then resubmit them for final action; sometimes action is postponed and particular defects of the design are pointed out to the artist or architect concerned at an informal conference, so that he can amend them himself.

RESTORATION OF CUPOLA ON THE CITY HALL.

On May 10, 1917, a fire occurred in the roof of City Hall and destroyed the Cupola, making necessary its complete reconstruction.

The President of the Borough of Manhattan, realizing the aesthetic importance of this feature of the building, which had been a familiar object to the citizens of New York for generations, conferred with the Commission, and asked its advice and co-operation in reference to restoration, and the design of new structure. The restoration of this Cupola, therefore, became a matter of special concern to the Commission and received its most serious consideration and study.

Upon investigation, it appeared that the Cupola originally placed on the building, in accordance with designs of the architect, Mr. John McComb, Jr., had once been altered, and once entirely replaced; and that the one that existed at time of the fire did not accord with the original McComb design.

McComb's original design is shown on Plate I; and, with certain modifications, the Cupola was thus originally constructed, as is indicated by the very rare and valuable "Wall Print" dated 1826, a copy of which is in possession of the Commission, as a gift of Art Commission Associates, and which is reproduced in Plate II.



PLATE I



PLATE II

In 1830 the Cupola was altered, the dome being raised to give space for installation of a clock; as shown in Plate III.



PLATE III

At a later period, the Cupola, having been destroyed by fire, was rebuilt; and in this process certain modifications were made, so that at time of the fire it existed as shown on Plate IV.



PLATE IV

Mr. Grosvenor Atterbury was retained as architect for the restoration; and fortunately, for he had superintended the restorations of the interior of the building under the generous bequest of Mrs. Russell Sage, and his thorough study of the McComb designs, undertaken at that time, made him especially competent to make the restorations contemplated.

Mr. Atterbury, from start to finish, gave his personal attention to this work in constant consultation with the Commission; and the fine result is evidenced in the reproduction of working drawing shown in Plate V.

This is also shown in the general view of the building as given in Plate VI.

It will be noted that no material difference exists between the original design of Mr. McComb (Plate I) and the new design (Plate V). Some minor changes in dimensions shown on Plate I were made as result of careful study of the figured drawing, which was discovered among Mr. McComb's effects. The only material change made appears in the enclosure of the arches as a protection from weather, and to make possible the installation of a clock which the citizens of New York for two generations had been accustomed to look upon as an essential characteristic of the Cupola.

On the whole the Art Commission feels that the results have well repaid the careful study given to the subject; and that the citizens of New York are to be congratulated upon the final outcome.

It would especially acknowledge to Borough President Dowling its appreciation of the constant interest he has evidenced in relation to this matter, and its thanks for his cordial co-operation with the architect and this Commission; and to Mr. I. N. Phelps Stokes, for the substantial aid given by him in investigation of the archives which was necessary to accomplishment of the final work.

It would also acknowledge to the Architectural Record Company its courtesy in permitting the Commission to print Plates II and III; and to the Municipal Art Society for a like permission to print Plates IV and V.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT W. DE FOREST,

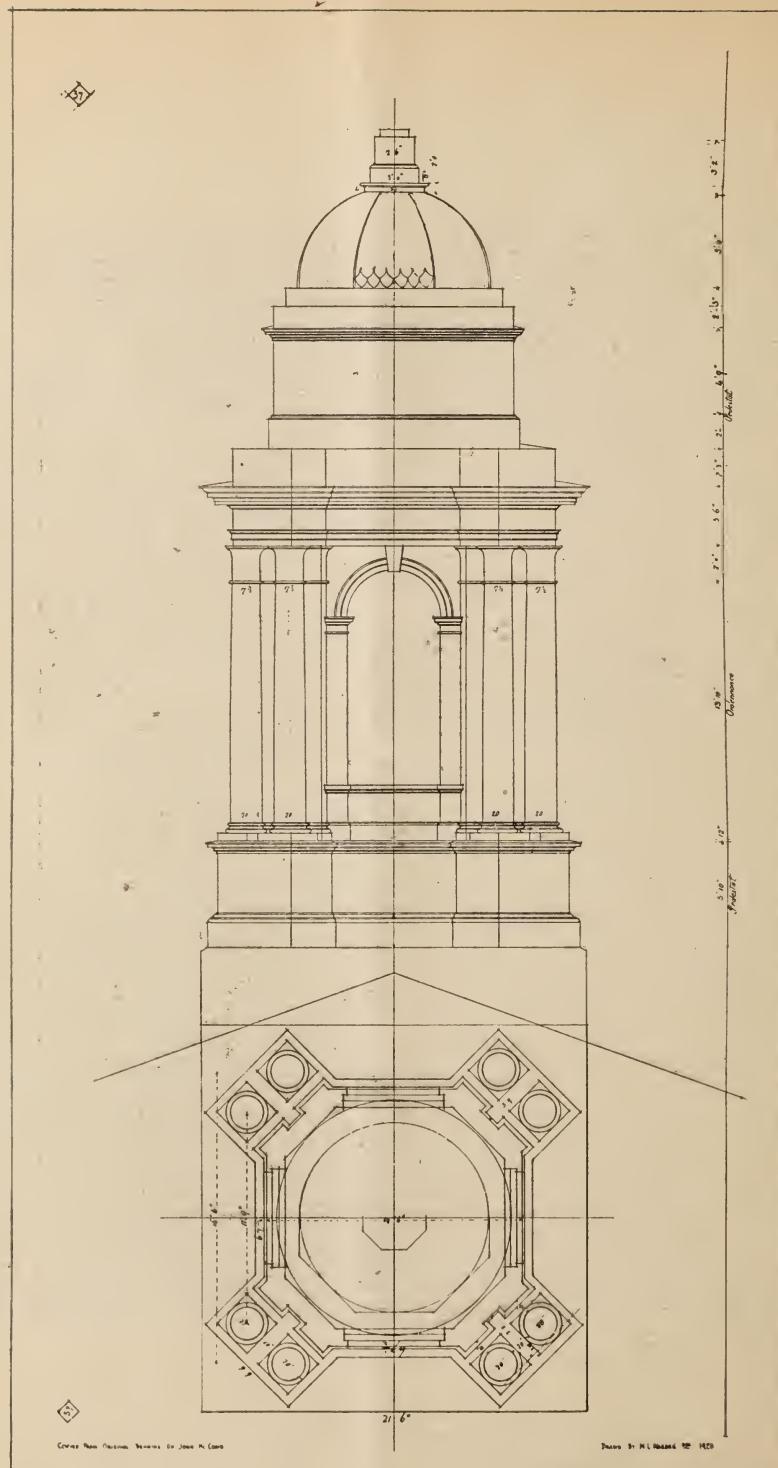
President.



PLATE V

This is also shown in general view of the building as given in Plate VI.





Copy of McComb's Working Drawing.

ACTION ON SUBMISSIONS 1917

WORKS OF ART.

Allen. Portrait of Mayor Stephen Allen. Bequeathed to City by Mrs. Catherine M. Dresser. Acceptance disapproved.

Baruch. Bronze tablet placed on Rivington Street public bath. Given to City by Mrs. Simon Baruch. Approved.

Bolivar. Statue of Simon Bolivar to be placed above West Drive, opposite 88th Street, Central Park. Given to City by Venezuelan Government. Preliminary approval.

Burr. Portrait of Judge Burr. Withdrawn.

Butterfield. Statue of General Daniel Butterfield, to be placed in Riverside Park, corner of Claremont Avenue and 122nd Street. To be given to City by Julia L. Butterfield Estate. Approved conditionally.

Children's Court Tablets. Approved.

Columbus picture to be placed in Washington Irving High School. Disapproved without prejudice.

Commercial H. S. Two mural paintings to be placed in auditorium of Commercial High School, Brooklyn. Preliminary approval.

Crane Fountain. To be placed in City Hall Park. Given to City by late Mrs. Angelina Crane. Approval of basin conditionally.

Jasper Tablet. Tablet of late John Jasper, to be placed in entrance vestibule of Board of Education Building. To be given to City. Approved.

Larkins' Tablet. Mosaic panel in memory of late Charles D. Larkins, to be placed in entrance hall of Manual Training High School, Brooklyn. To be given to City. Preliminary approval with suggestions.

Liberty Pole Tablet. To be placed on Liberty Pole Brooklyn approach to Williamsburgh Bridge. Given to City. Approved.

Miller. Portrait of George C. Miller, to be placed in auditorium of Bushwick High School. Disapproved.

New York City Reformatory Tablet. Approved.

Public School 3. Fifteen prints to be placed in Public School 3. Given to City by Moses Tanenbaum. Approved 14. Disapproved 1.

Queensboro Fountain. To be placed in the market on Manhattan Approach to Queensboro Bridge. To be given to City by Municipal Art Society. Preliminary approval.

Rose Garden Stairway Tablet, Bronx Park. Approved.

Sheppard Tablet. Portrait tablet of late James J. Sheppard, to be placed in auditorium of High School of Commerce. Given to City by Alumni Association of High School of Commerce. Preliminary approval with condition.

Southerland Tablet. In memory of late Benjamin D. Southerland, to be placed in auditorium of Public School 3. Given to City by B. D. L. Southerland Association. Approved.

Straus Tablet for Straus Memorial. Approved.

Tilden Statue. Monument to be placed at 34th Street and Park Avenue. To be given to City by Samuel J. Tilden Estate. Disapproved.

Wadleigh High School. Stained glass window to be placed in corridor of Wadleigh High School. Given to City by friends of late Jessie Frances Ford. Approved.

Washington. Group in marble representing George Washington as President of United States. Given to City by Washington Arch Committee. Approved.

Washington Irving High School. Mural decorations for auditorium. Approved conditionally.

REMOVAL, RELOCATION OR ALTERATION OF WORKS OF ART.

Relocation of bronze standards, Hall of Records to American Museum of Natural History. Approved.

Relocation of statuary, Hall of Records. Approved.

Removal of Lefferts' House, Brooklyn. Approved.

PUBLIC STRUCTURES.

Arverne Incinerator Plant. Approved.

Bronx Borough Hospital Pavilion. Preliminary approval.

Brooklyn Museum Interior. Approved.

Bryant High School Additions, Queens. Approved.

Cherry Garden Shelter, New York Botanical Garden. Approved with suggestion.

Children's Court, Brooklyn. Preliminary approval.

City Prison Addition, Queens. Approved.

Court House, Manhattan. Approved.

Cumberland Street Hospital, Brooklyn. Approved conditionally.

De Witt Clinton Park Pergola Alterations. Approved.

Drainage Chamber, Clinton Street. Approved.

Eastchester Bridge. Approved.

Eighth Regiment Armory Alterations. Approved.

Electric Light Posts. Approved.

Flag Poles, New York Botanical Garden. Approved.

Flushing Refuse Destructor Plant. Approved.

Forest Park Shelter, Queens. Approved.

Fourth Avenue Retaining Wall. Approved.

Gouverneur Hospital Bridge. Approved.
Green Houses, New York Botanical Garden. Approved.
Highland Park Carousel, Queens. Approved.
Illuminated Lecture Signs. Disapproved.
Kissena Park Lake House. Approved with suggestion.
Lincoln Highway Markers. Approved.
Lutheran Chapel, Blackwell's Island. Approved conditionally.
Mast Arm for Wooden Electric Poles. Approved.
Music Pavilion, Central Park. Disapproved.
New York Botanical Garden Shelter. Approved with suggestion.
New York City Reformatory Buildings. Approved.
New York Reformatory Power House. Approved.
Newtown High School Addition. Preliminary approval.
Park Avenue Viaduct. Approved.
Playground Building, First Avenue and 67th Street. Approved conditionally.
Poe Cottage Addition. Approved.
Public School 4 Addition, The Bronx. Approved.
Public School 57, The Bronx. Approved.
Public School 29, Brooklyn. Approved.
Public School 144 Addition, Brooklyn. Approved.
Public School 130, Manhattan. Preliminary approval with suggestion.
Randall's Island Buildings. Approved.
Restoration of Cupola, City Hall. Approved conditionally.
Restoration of Exterior of City Hall. Pending.
Richmond County Court House Fixtures. Approved.
Richmond Garage. Disapproved.
Rose Garden Stairway, Bronx Park. Approved.
Second Avenue Court House. Approved.
Signs for Public Hack Stands. Withdrawn.
Sixty-first Precinct Police Station, The Bronx. Approved.
Stable and Office Building, Plant and Structures. Approved.
Staten Island Association Museum. Approved.
Transverse Road at 161st Street. Approved modified designs.
Work House for Women, Greycourt. Approved.

PRIVATE STRUCTURES WHICH EXTEND OVER OR UPON LAND BELONGING TO CITY.

Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Shed, Pier 13, North River. Approved.
Eastern Steamship Sheds, Piers 18 and 19, North River. Approved.

Erie Railroad Shed, Pier 20, North River Disapproved.
Hecker-Jones-Jewell Milling Company Bridges. Approved.
Lamp Standards, Reisenweber's. Approved.
Mallory Steamship Sheds, Piers 37 and 38, North River. Approved.
O. H. Perry and Son Office Building. Approved.
Robert Gair Company Pier Shed, Main Street, Brooklyn. Approved.

ACTION ON SUBMISSIONS. 1918

WORKS OF ART.

Blow Tablet. In memory of Miss Susan E. Blow (Kindergarten), to be placed in Auditorium of Brooklyn Training School for Teachers. Given to City by Kindergarten Alumni of Brooklyn Training School for Teachers. Approved.

Boliver Statue Pedestal. Given to City by Venezuelan Government. Approved conditionally.

Botanical Garden. Two bronze tablets in Orchid Greenhouse and Central Display Greenhouse. To be given to City by Daniel and Murry Guggenheim. Approved tablet Orchid Greenhouse. Disapproved tablet Central Display Greenhouse.

Bronx Monument to be placed at intersection of Third Avenue, Lincoln Avenue and 137th Street. To be given to City by citizens of the Bronx. Approved conditionally.

Bronx Granite Shaft. To be placed at Plaza on 138th Street and Third Avenue. To be given to City by Citizens Patriotic Committee of Local Board No. 2. Disapproved.

Commercial High School. Two mural paintings to be placed in auditorium of Commercial High School, Brooklyn. Purchased by City. Approved.

Gunnison Window. In memory of Walter B. Gunnison, principal of Erasmus Hall High School. To be placed in library of that school. To be given to City by Alumni, friends and faculty of school. Preliminary approval with suggestion.

Kings Court House. Two bronze tablets, two directory boards and one bulletin board to be placed in entrance to Court House, Brooklyn. Purchased by City. Approved.

Mitchel. Oil painting of late Major John Purroy Mitchel. Disapproved.

New York Reformatory. Tablet to be placed in vestibule of Receiving, Classification and Administration Building of New York City Reformatory, New Hampton. Purchased by City. Approved.

New York Training School for Teachers. Bronze tablet to be placed in auditorium. To be given to City by teachers, students and alumni of school. Approved.

Public School 35. Bronze tablet to be placed on exterior of Public School 35, Manhattan. To be given to City by Thomas Hunter Alumni Association. Disapproved.

Public School 52. Stained glass window to be placed in auditorium in memory of Frank Alfred Young, former principal of school. To be given to City by teachers, pupils and friends of Mr. Young. Disapproved.

Queensboro Fountain. To be placed in the market on Manhattan Approach to Queensboro Bridge. To be given to City by Municipal Art Society. Approved.

Sheppard. Bronze portrait tablet of late James H. Sheppard, to be placed in auditorium of High School of Commerce. Given to City by Alumni Association. Approved.

REMOVAL, RELOCATION OR ALTERATION OF WORKS OF ART

Location of Paintings, Washington Irving High School. Disapproved.

PUBLIC STRUCTURES.

Forty-fifth Precinct Police Station. Approved.

Kings County Court House Fence. Approved.

Kings County Court House Lighting Fixtures. Approved.

Park Avenue Viaduct Standards. Approved.

Public School 6 Addition, The Bronx. Approved.

Public School 43, The Bronx. Approved.

Public School 57, The Bronx. Approved.

Public School 17, Brooklyn. Approved.

Public School 29, Brooklyn. Approved.

Public School 54, Brooklyn. Preliminary approval.

Public School 73 Addition, Brooklyn. Preliminary approval.

Public School 80, Brooklyn. Approved.

Public School 100, Brooklyn. Approved.

Public School 144 Addition, Brooklyn. Approved.

Public School 182, Brooklyn. Approved.

Public School 83 Addition, Manhattan. Preliminary approval.

Public School 3, Queens. Approved with suggestions.

Public School 39 Addition, Queens. Approved.

Public School 11, Richmond. Preliminary approval with suggestion.

Richmond Court House Lighting Fixtures. Approved.

Tower Clock, Pier A, North River. Approved.

Transverse Road at 161st Street. Approved conditionally.

PRIVATE STRUCTURES WHICH EXTEND OVER OR UPON
LAND BELONGING TO CITY

East Fifth Street Pier Shed. Approved.

Electric Light Post. Disapproved.

Erie Railroad Shed Extension, Pier 20, North River. Approved.

SUMMARY, 1898 to 1918, INCLUSIVE.

	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Submissions carried over from previous year.....	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	4	4	14	3	7	6	1	9	1	8	1	4	1	1
Submissions made during year:																					
New works of art.....	8	6	3	5	24	58	51	23	40	63	75	62	48	49	55	58	41	36	28	35	17
Removal or relocation of works of art.....	1	0	0	0	1	7	5	11	1	6	0	5	1	3	5	6	2	2	3	6	1
On request of Mayor or Board of Aldermen.....	0	0	0	0	36	46	28	66	65	51											
Structures costing over \$1,000,000	0	0	0	0	3	6	6	11	22	12	21	107	105	73	126	179	126	71	54	59	29
Public structures.....																					
Under terms of franchise.....																					
Private structures extending over or upon land belonging to City.....																					
Total	9	6	3	5	64	117	90	101	128	154	182	172	134	207	263	211	134	124	111	121	51
Submissions acted upon during year:																					
Approved.....	4	5	1	3	42	61	58	73	80	121	150	144	115	174	225	171	120	113	86	102	43
Disapproved in whole or in part	4	1	3	2	14	55	27	22	26	38	23	27	20	21	36	20	15	8	23	15	8
Withdrawn	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	6	12	5	5	2	4	3	10	10	6	0	5	4	0
Total	8	6	4	5	60	120	87	101	118	164	178	173	139	198	271	201	141	121	114	121	51
Not acted upon at close of year	1	1	0	0	4	1	4	4	4	14	3	7	6	1	9	1	8	1	4	1	1

*The provision requiring that all structures should be approved by the Commission did not become a law until July 20, 1907.

